

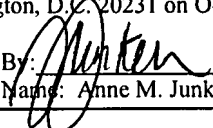
103-111118
S/N 09/228,921

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: WAGNER ET AL. Examiner: E. NICHOLSON
Serial No.: 09/228,921 Group Art Unit: 3627
Filed: JANUARY 14, 1999 Docket No.: 758.748USI1
Title: U-BOLT CLAMP FOR SEALING LAP JOINTS

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on October 30, 2000.

By: 
Name: Anne M. Junkers

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please amend the application as follows.

In the Claims

Please amend claims 1-6, 8, 9, 12 and 13, cancel claims 17-20, and add new claims 31-35 as follows:

1. A clamp comprising:

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a saddle member having a concave saddle portion;
a U-bolt mounted on the saddle member, the U-bolt having a concave portion oriented opposed to the saddle member concave saddle portion; and

a' [a first shim positioned between the U-bolt and the saddle member.] at least one shim positioned between the U-bolt and the saddle member, the shim being made of metal and forming substantially a full cylinder at least when the saddle member and the U-bolt are drawn completely together.